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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Roads in Eastern Bulgaria

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Yambol (N4228 E2631)

1. A masonry arch bridge (no details yet available except that it will rest on two piers some 25 feet above the water) is being built over the Tundzha River at Yambol to replace the timber trestle bridge of 8-ton capacity. The new bridge is to be approximately 300 yards north of the old bridge.

Gorno Aleksandrovo Crossroads-Kolarovgrad (100 miles)

2. From the intersection of the Gorno Aleksandrovo road and the Sofia-Burgas highway at location N4238 E2639 north as far as Omortag, the road crosses the main Balkan Mountain range, which in this area is hilly but not really mountainous (the highest point is approximately 2,200 feet above sea level on the Kotel Pass between Kotal (N4250 E2632) and Tucha (Chitak, N4038 E2627)). Immediately north of Avramov (Mokren, N4244 E2639), there is a grade of approximately 1 in 12 over two miles, and north of Kotel the road has a grade of approximately 1 in 15 before dropping abruptly at 1 in 10 into Tucha. The whole of this section of the route necessitates very slow driving because of very sharp curves and oncoming traffic. Regular 2-way traffic is not a practical possibility and no sign of major repairs is apparent.
3. Between Omortag (N4307 E2620) and Kolarovgrad (Shumen, N4323 E2653), the road passes through the undulating northern foothills of the Balkan Range. Fast driving is not possible, but 2-way traffic could be barely maintained as far as Preslav (N4303 E2653) and the remainder of the distance with ease.
4. The whole route between Gorno Aleksandrovo Crossroads and Kolarovgrad is to be avoided if possible because of the poor condition of the road surface, especially from Mokren to Mengishevo (Keopek, N4302 E2639) by way of Omortag. Another route over the Vurbitsa Pass to Mengishevo and Mokren is more direct and appears to be more generally used.

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5. The surface of the road between Gorno Aleksandrovo and Kolarovgrad is of crushed stone with a topping of dirt and sand. The road is in a generally poor condition, deteriorating, with potholes appearing between the Crossroads and Omortag. From Omortag to Mengishevo, the road is in slightly better condition but still has potholes. From Mengishevo to Preslav, the road is in medium condition and reasonably free of holes; the final section of the road into Kolarovgrad is good.
6. From the Crossroads to Omortag, the road averages 15 feet in width with 3-foot shoulders, except the 10 miles between Kotel and Tucha which are only 12 feet with 1-2-foot shoulders. From Omortag to Preslav, the road is 15 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders, and from Preslav to Kolarovgrad the road is 20 feet wide with 3-foot shoulders.
7. There are no bridges of any importance between the Gorno Aleksandrovo Crossroads and Kolarovgrad. There is a masonry arch bridge 180 feet long and 25 feet wide (20-foot roadway), 30 feet above the water over the tiny Kamchiya River at Tucha.

Ruse-Byala

8. The whole of the road between Ruse (N4350 E2557) and Byala (N4327 E2544) is being renovated. In parts, a completely new road is being laid along the old; in other places, the old road is being torn up and replaced with a much wider foundation. It is not yet clear what the dimensions and surface of the new road will be, but the object of the construction is obviously to provide a first-class road south from Ruse. All corners are being eliminated and the width of the new roadway will be at least 25 feet. The work in hand will take many months to complete; in the meantime, traffic is being diverted much of the way over third-class country roads.

Byala-Pleven (63 miles)

9. The road between Byala and Pleven is part of the recognized main Sofia-Ruse route. It passes through open rolling country and has no appreciable grades. There is a little cover on this road which is very dusty. Fast 2-way traffic is easy to maintain and some repairs are intended on the Osum River-Pleven section.
10. The surface is of crushed stone well bound with dirt top. In general the road is in good-excellent condition from Byala to the Osum River, having obviously been renovated within the last two years. From the Osum River to Pleven, the road is level, but has not recently been repaired and some deterioration has resulted. There are some potholes and the road is in ~~only medium condition~~.
11. The width is 18 feet with 3-foot shoulders between Byala and the Osum River; from the river to Pleven, the road is 15 feet wide with 6-foot shoulders.

Pleven-Lovech (24 miles)

12. The road between Pleven and Lovech (N4309 E2443) passes through rolling country but has no serious grades. Some repairs are intended, but fast regular 2-way traffic is possible even at present.
13. The surface is of crushed stone, in general well bound with a dirt top. The road is level and in medium/good condition. The width is 18 feet with 4-foot shoulders.

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